

WE ARE NOT PUPPY MILLS!!

There is no legal definition of a "puppy mill". The term "puppy mill" has been promoted by HSUS and other animal rights activists in the same manner as a racial slur to cast a negative picture on the whole industry of breeding dogs. The goal is to eventually make all the words interchangeable, commercial breeder="puppy mill"=hobby breeder. It is degrading and offensive to dog breeders to be called "puppy mills".

Increasingly, animal rights activists have broadened the term until anyone who breeds a dog is fair game for attack. Even someone who breeds only an occasional litter is at risk of being labeled as a dreaded "puppy mill" by activists who do not approve of breeding or procreation in the first place.

The "puppy mill" label is tossed around frequently with no basis of truth, solely to arouse the intense emotion needed to pass crippling legislation against dog breeding. Activists will use photos of run-down kennels and dirty dogs from any state – some even years old – to imply that dogs will lead horribly abused lives unless regulations are enacted.

An arbitrary number is then established for dogs owned or litters bred, and breeders who fall in either category become targets of the anti-breeding zealots lobbying for restrictive kennel regulations.

The animal rights movement is about control, not animal welfare. Although HSUS will argue that their laws are not intended to harm hobby breeders but just those "evil puppy mills", the truth is that HSUS has a well documented history of opposing all purposeful breeding of dogs.

In addition to labeling dog breeders, HSUS and their supporters label cities, counties, and sometimes entire states as "puppy mill capitals" – regardless of existing regulation – in an attempt to send the public and legislators on an emotional roller coaster ride demanding new laws.

- Riverside CA was dubbed the "puppy mill capital" of Southern California
- Activists placed billboards in Daviess County calling it the "puppy mill capital" of Indiana
- Clark County was labeled the "puppy mill capital" of Wisconsin
- Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri have each been named as "puppy mill capital" of the entire Midwest and accused of widespread mistreatment of dogs
- HSUS lobbied hard to pass legislation in Pennsylvania labeling that state the "puppy mill capital" of the East.
- Tennessee was labeled a "puppy mill state" with at least 500 mass breeding facilities prior to introduction of a Commercial Breeder Act by HSUS
- HSUS labeled Texas the 10th largest "puppy mill state in the country" prior to introduction of the Commercial Dog and Cat Breeders Act
- HSUS even moved into Canada labeling the City of Quebec as the "puppy mill capital" of Canada.

Fanatics are never satisfied. Now HSUS has turned its lobbying focus on North Carolina and is intensifying its campaign to widely regulate and inspect dog breeders in our state. In an attempt to pass legislation activists coined the slogan: "North Carolina – First in Flight Now in Puppy Mills." This defamation cannot be tolerated.

No one supports neglect or abuse of animals. However, calling dog breeders "puppy mills" and claiming that they abuse their animals is unfair, unjust, and unacceptable.